

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method for creating reports from financial data in a financial software application executing on a processor, the method comprising:
 - receiving a selection of a report template for creating a report,
 - wherein the report template is selected by a first user of the financial software application, to be used to create a report,
 - wherein the report template includes query parameters, layout information, and content field information stored independently of financial data,
 - wherein the report template is created by the financial software application used by a second user, and
 - wherein the first user and the second user are different;
 - receiving financial data from a data source;
 - assessing, using the processor, whether the financial data is compatible with the report template by examining a data file type and contents of the financial data to ensure consistency with the selection of the report template and the content field information; and
 - applying, using the processor, the received layout information and received content field information to the received financial data to generate a report, the report having a layout specified by the layout information, and including content associated with the content field information.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising outputting the report to an output device.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the output device is a computer monitor
4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the output device is a printer.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the output device is storage medium.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data source is a storage device.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the report template is selected using the Internet.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 further comprising storing the report template locally.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the report template includes version information, and prior to applying the received layout information and received content field information to the received financial data, the template version is compared to a version associated with the received financial data to determine whether the financial data is compatible with the selected template.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
responsive to a determination that the financial data is compatible with the report template,
generating the report.
11. -14. (Canceled)
15. (Currently Amended) A system for creating reports and a report template from financial data in a financial software application, the system comprising:
a template data store for receiving a selection of a report template, by a first user of the financial software application, and storing [[a]] the report template,
wherein the report template ~~including~~ includes query parameters, layout information,
and content field information stored independently of financial data, and used
to generate a report,
wherein the report template is created by a second user of the financial software application, and
wherein the first and second user are different;
a user data store for storing user financial data; and
a report engine, communicatively coupled to the template data store and the user data store,
for receiving template data from the template data store and user data from the user

data store, generating reports by applying the template data to the user data, and generating the report template by extracting query parameters, content fields, and report layout information from reports and exporting the report template.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for creating reports and a report template from financial data in a financial software application, the computer program product stored on a computer readable medium and containing instructions configured to cause a processor to execute the steps of:

receiving a selection of a report template for creating a report,

wherein the report template is selected by a first user of the financial software application, to be used to create a report,

wherein the report template includes query parameters, layout information, and content field information stored independently of financial data,

wherein the report template is created by the financial software application used by a second user, and

wherein the first and second user are different;

receiving financial data from a data source;

assessing whether the financial data is compatible with the report template by examining a data file type and contents of the financial data to ensure consistency with the selection of the report template and the content field information;

applying the received layout information and received content field information to the received financial data to generate a report, the report having a layout specified by the layout information, and including content associated with the content field information; and

generating the report template by extracting the query parameters, content fields, and report layout information from reports.

17. - 27. (Canceled)